

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 0423

DEPT. FOR OES CRAWFORD

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SUBJECT: NATO SCIENCE: SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING, FEBRUARY 3-4,
1977

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1. ON JANUARY 24, 1977, ASYG OZDAS CIRCULATED FOLLOWING DRAFT
(ASG.SEA(77)0066) OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE
COUNCIL FOR 1976 WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED UNDER AGENDA ITEM V AT
FEBRUARY 3-4 MEETING (REFS).

2. BEING TEXT:

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COUNCIL FOR 1976
BY THE NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE INTENDS WITH ITS SECOND ANNUAL
REPORT TO PRESENT A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES
OF THE COMMITTEE IN 1976 WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF INSPIRING
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ENDEAVOURS.
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EVER SINCE THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE WAS CREATED IN 1958,
IT HAS, THROUGH THE SCIENCE PROGRAMME, ENDEAVOURED TO CREATE
THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY IN ALLIANCE COUNTRIES. THE COMMITTEE FIRMLY
BELIEVES THAT TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS IS DEPENDENT UPON A
THRIVING BASIC SCIENCE WHICH PAST HISTORY HAS AMPLY DEMONSTRATED
TO BE THE PRECURSOR OF LATER DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATIONS. IN
PROMOTING COLLABORATION IN BASIC RESEARCH AMONGST THE ALLIES,
THE COMMITTEE ENABLES ACTIVITIES TO TAKE PLACE WHICH, IF
PURSUED PURELY NATIONALLY, WOULD PROVE MORE EXPENSIVE AND

LESS EFFICIENT. IN THIS WAY, THE BENEFITS OF SYNERGY ENRICH AND STRENGTHEN THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS OF THE MEMBER NATIONS.

IN COMMEMORATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMITTEE IN 1978 PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED FOR A 2 1/2 DAYS SYMPOSIUM ON THE IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON A NUMBER OF SOCIAL ISSUES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO ALLIANCE NATIONS. THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE WOULD WELCOME THE VIEWS AND PARTICIPATION OF THE COUNCIL IN THIS REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF WESTERN SCIENCE.

2. THE WORK OF THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE

THE FIVE ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRIEFLY DESCRIBED HERE, AND WE WILL THEN GIVE A MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THEM, THE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME, TO OFFER AN EXAMPLE IN SOME DEPTH OF WHAT THE COMMITTEE AIMS TO DO.

THE ACTIVITIES

2.1 THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME PERMITS SCIENTISTS TO BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE. THE PROGRAMME IS OPERATED BY THE VARIOUS NATIONS, BUT BY BEING CENTRALLY MONITORED BRINGS A CROSS FERTILIZATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE NATIONS WHICH WOULD BE MOST COMPLEX TO ARRANGE ON A BILATERAL BASIS. THERE UNCLASSIFIED

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WERE 744 FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED IN 1974, THE MAJORITY OF WHICH HAD A DURATION BETWEEN 9 AND 20 MONTHS. ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF THE FELLOWS WERE BETWEEN 26 AND 35 YEARS OF AGE.

THE COMMITTEE IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING AN EFFORT TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROGRAMME THROUGH COMPARABLE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPATING NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES AND THROUGH A QUESTIONNAIRE TO HOST UNIVERSITIES.

2.2 ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES WERE ESTABLISHED TO ENABLE SCIENTISTS, PARTICULARLY STUDENTS AT GRADUATE OR DOCTORAL LEVEL, TO GET TOGETHER, NORMALLY IN ISOLATED SURROUNDINGS, TO HEAR LEADING WORKERS LECTURE IN DEPTH ON THEIR WORK OR GIVE REAPPRAISALS OF A FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC ENDEAVOUR.

IN 1976 A TOTAL OF 39 ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES WERE HELD WITH APPROXIMATELY 4,000 SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATING. DURING THE

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PAST YEAR 25 VOLUMES OF PROCEEDINGS FROM THE INSTITUTES WERE
PUBLISHED IN THE NATO ASI SERIES. DURING 1976 A TOTAL OF 44
OUT OF 117 APPLICATIONS FOR ASIS WERE APPROVED FOR 1977.

2.3 THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME PANELS ARE CREATED BY THE COMMITTEE
FOR CERTAIN AREAS WHICH AS A RESULT OF A CAREFUL STUDY HAVE
BEEN DEEMED WORTHY OF SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. THE PANELS
SUPPORT INNOVATIVE PROJECTS INCLUDING RESEARCH GRANTS,
SYMPOSIA, EXCHANGE VISITS, SPECIAL STUDIES ETC. IN ADDITION
TO THE FIVE ONGOING PROGRAMMES IN MARINE SCIENCES, SYSTEMS
SCIENCE, HUMAN FACTORS, ECO-SCIENCES AND AIR-SEA
INTERACTION, A NEW MATERIALS SCIENCE PANEL WAS ESTABLISHED
WITH A PROGRAMME TO CONCENTRATE INITIALLY ON THE CONSERVATION
OF SCARCE RESOURCES AND THE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF ABUNDANT
RESOURCES.

2.4 THE SENIOR SCIENTISTS PROGRAMME IS A SMALL, BUT USEFUL
FUND GIVING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SENIOR SCIENTISTS TO PAY
VISITS TO COLLEAGUES IN OTHER NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE IN THE
GENERAL FURTHERANCE OF THE COMMITTEE'S AIM. THE PROGRAMME
IS AIMED LARGELY AT STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS IN THE NATO
MEMBER COUNTRIES.

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2.5 THE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME WILL BE DEALT WITH IN MORE
DETAIL IN THE NEXT SECTION.

3. THE RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME

THE SPECIFIC AIM OF THE NATO RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME IS
TO STIMULATE AND ENCOURAGE CLOSE COLLABORATION OF INDIVIDUAL
RESEARCH GROUPS, IN TWO OR MORE COUNTRIES, WHICH ARE ENGAGED
IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN RELATED AREAS.

THE PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL
SCIENCE IN THE NATO COUNTRIES IN LINE WITH THE STATEMENT MADE
BY THE NATO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN 1957:

"WE SEEK TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF NATIONAL
EFFORTS THROUGH THE POOLING OF SCIENTIFIC FACILITIES AND
INFORMATION AND THE SHARING OF TASKS."

SINCE THE PROGRAMME WAS INTRODUCED IN 1960 A TOTAL OF 1278 PROJECTS HAVE BEEN FUNDED UP TO DECEMBER 1976. FOR 1974 AND 1975 THE ATTACHED FIGURE, SHOWING THE FREQUENCY OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES UNDER THIS PROGRAMME, STRESSES ITS UNIQUE ROLE VERSUS OTHER REGIONAL PROGRAMMES.

UNDER THE PROGRAMME SCIENTIFICALLY MERITORIOUS PROJECTS ARE SUPPORTED REGARDLESS OF THE DISCIPLINE INVOLVED. PROJECTS VARY FROM

- "DNA REPLICATION AND CHROMOSOME STRUCTURE AND SEGREGATION IN BACTERIA AND EUCARYOTES"

INVOLVING LABORATORIES IN THE USA, THE UK AND GERMANY, AND

- "A STUDY OF THE EARTH'S CRUST, PROCESSES AND MATERIALS, AT 3.8 BILLION YEARS"
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WHICH ENAGE SCIENTISTS IN DENMARK, CANADA, NORWAY AND THE UK, TO

- "THEORETICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH ON NORMAL SHOCK BOUNDARY LAYER INTERACTION AT LOW SUPERSONIC MACH NUMBERS"

WHICH IS A COOPERATIVE PROJECT BETWEEN THE USA, BELGIUM AND FRANCE. PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAMME BY BRILLIANT YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND NOBEL PRIZE LAUREATES SHOWS THE INTEREST TAKEN IN IT AT ALL LEVELS OF COMPETENCE, AND THE REPUTATION THE PROGRAMME HAS IN THE SCIENTIFIC WORLD.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: OZDAS INVITES SUGGESTIONS FOR EXPANDING ABOVE DRAFT SO THAT DEFINITIVE REPORT FOR COUNCIL CAN BE PREPARED IN NEAR FUTURE. STRAUZ-HUPE

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